

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: REMARKS BY GDR MILITARY AND SECURITY MINISTERS.

REF: BERLIN 5385

1. AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE DELGATES CONFERENCES OF THE GDR NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY (NVA) AND THE MINISTRY FOR STATE SECUTIY (MSS) HELD IN DRESDEN AND EAST BERLIN IN PREPARATION FOR THE SED NINTH PARTY CONGRESS, MINISTER OF DEFENSE HEINZ HOFFMANN AND MINISTER OF STATE SECUTIY ERICH MIELKE PAID HOMMAGE TO THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES IN THE GDR. SPEAKING AT THE NVA CONFERENCE, HOFFMAN CALLED FOR INCREASED MILITARY READINESS

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TO COUNTER GROWING DANGERS FROM THE ENEMIES OF

SOCIALISM. JUST AS THE GDR'S WEALTH HAD INCREASED, HOFFMAN ARGUED, SO HAD THE DESIRE OF IMPERIALIST FORCES TO TAKE IT AWAY, AND FOR HOFFMAN THIS WAS ONE REASON WHY THE AGGRESSIVE POTENTIAL OF IMPERIALIST FORCES THAT SOUGHT TO DESTROY SOCIALISM HAD GROWN.

2. IN HIS REMARKS BEFORE THE MFS CONFERENCE IN EAST BERLIN ON APRIL 3, MIELKE ECHOED THE THEME OF A GROWING RESPONSIBILITY OF MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM. HE OUTLINED THE PRINCIPAL DUTIES OF THE MFS AS FOLLOWS: TO STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF IMPERIALIST INTERLLIGENCE AGENCIES; TO DISCOVER AND PREVENT POTENTIAL ATTACKS ON THE GDR ECONOMY AND SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION; TO COMBAT IDEOLOGICAL DIVERSION AND THE MISUSE OF "CONTACTS AND RELATIONS" FOR ANTI-SOCIALIST GOALS; AND TO CVUNTER THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF EXFILTRATION GROUPS THAT MISUSED TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS FOR THEIR PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT. IN A SIMILAR SPEECH BEFORE LEADING GDR STATE AND ECONOMIC FUNCTIONARIES ON MARCH 29, MIELKE HAD EMPHASIZED THAT SECURITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST THE GDR'S ENEMIES INVOLVED NOT JUST THE MFS BUT ALL OF GDR SOCIETY.

3. COMMENT: HOFFMANN'S AND MIELKE'S SPEECHES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE STRESS ON MILITARY AND SECURITY THEMES EVIDENT IN GDR PREPARATIONS FOR THE SED NINTH PARTY CONGRESS IN MAY. COOPER

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